



Summer Backcountry Use

With 100 miles of hiking trails, Crater Lake National Park's backcountry offers many opportunities for solitude and exploration. Preservation and enjoyment of the backcountry depends on your careful and considerate use. Please observe all backcountry regulations, incorporating minimum impact suggestions into your trip.

While on your backcountry trip, why not set a goal? Try to leave as little human impact on the environment as possible. This will ensure everyone the opportunity for solitude and a quality experience.

Rules and Regulations

Backcountry use permits are required for all backcountry overnight stays. They are issued from park visitor centers during their regular hours of operation.

Maximum party size is limited to 8 people and/or 12 head of stock. Groups larger than eight must break into smaller groups, travelling and camping separately.

Pack stock use is not permitted throughout the backcountry with the following exceptions:

- Bald Crater Loop Trail and Bert Creek Access Trail
- Pacific Crest Trail, excluding Rim Trail alternate route
- Lightning Springs Trail, up to the hitching post 1/4 mile below Rim Drive
- Stuart Falls Spur Trail
- Grayback Road

Pets, bicycles, and motorized vehicles are not permitted in the backcountry. Pets are allowed on leash up to 50 feet from maintained roads, parking areas, and developed campgrounds. Pack out all garbage and leave a clean camp.

Open campfires are allowed only if "dead and down" wood is used to fuel the fire. Wood can only be collected below an elevation of 6,900 feet. Use an existing fire ring.

Camping and open campfires are prohibited in the following areas to protect the experiences of other visitors and preserve specific fragile areas:

- Within one mile of any maintained road, or developed area
- Within 100 feet of any water source
- Within 100 feet of any trail or other

camping party except when using a designated campsite

- Between Rim Drive and Crater Lake
- Within ¼ mile of Sphagnum Bog, Boundary Springs, or Thousand Springs
- Atop Mt. Scott and along the trail to the summit
- Atop Garfield Peak and along the trail to the summit

No hiking is permitted inside the rim except on the Cleetwood Trail. Climbing is prohibited everywhere inside the rim.

In all areas within the park, all food, lawfully taken fish, garbage and equipment used to store food (e.g., ice chests) must be stored in one of the following ways:

- Inside a vehicle with all doors, windows and trunk lids closed, OR
- Inside a camping unit that is constructed of solid non-pliable material, OR
- Suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet horizontally from a post, tree trunk or other object, OR
- Inside a commercially available portable bear-resistant food storage container this is specifically designed and constructed to prevent access by bears and other wildlife, OR
- In developed campgrounds, inside a food storage locker where provided.

Food is defined as items to be consumed, drinks, pet food, toiletries and soaps. Garbage is defined as food wastes, empty food containers, trash and recyclables.

Rules and Regulations Continued

We encourage you to pack out ALL waste from the backcountry. If you choose to bury your human waste do so a minimum of six inches deep in the soil.

The following are prohibited:

- The disposal of human body waste within 100 feet of...
 1. Any water source
 2. The high water mark of any body of water
 3. A campsite
 4. Or within sight of any trail

The Pacific Crest Trail

Crater Lake is one of seven National Parks through which the PCT passes. Hikers who wish to stay overnight in Crater Lake National Park must get a backcountry permit. Permits may be obtained at the Rim Visitor Center in Rim Village, the Steel Information Center by Park Headquarters or the Ranger Station. Alternatively, PCT through-hikers may sign the trail register as they enter the park.

The Rim Trail brings hikers right up to the rim of Crater Lake. Coming from the south, the trail ascends the Dutton Creek Trail to the rim, then

follows the edge of the caldera for six miles with spectacular views. It then parallels the road from North Junction to Grouse Hill and rejoins the PCT.

For more information on the Pacific Crest Trail as it passes through the park, write, e-mail or call the park at:

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